

FACT SHEET

Governor Haley Barbour's Early Childhood Agenda The Early Childhood Enhancement Act of 2007

Mississippi's Early Care and Education System

Mississippi's early care and education system consists of Head Start, public pre-kindergarten and licensed child care programs that are funded by federal, local and private sources. These programs currently serve a high percentage of pre-kindergarten children.

The Early Childhood Enhancement Act of 2007

The Early Childhood Enhancement Act of 2007 consists of three initiatives and would provide additional state funds to support the early care and education of Mississippi's youngest citizens:

- Expansion of the Mississippi Child Care Quality Step System
- Funding for a statewide Child Care Resource and Referral System to provide training to early childhood teachers and care providers, and resources to parents in locations across the state.
- Implementation of Early Learning Collaboration Grants to existing programs that serve or seek to serve four-year-old children and demonstrate collaboration between licensed child care facilities, Head Start programs and public school districts for the purpose of enhancing existing services or extending educational opportunities to four-year-old children.

Quality Early Care and Education for Young Children

Quality early care and education begins at home with parents serving as the child's primary teachers, is continued by adults in the child's life, and results from collaborations and partnerships between home, early care and education teachers and the community where the child and family live.